

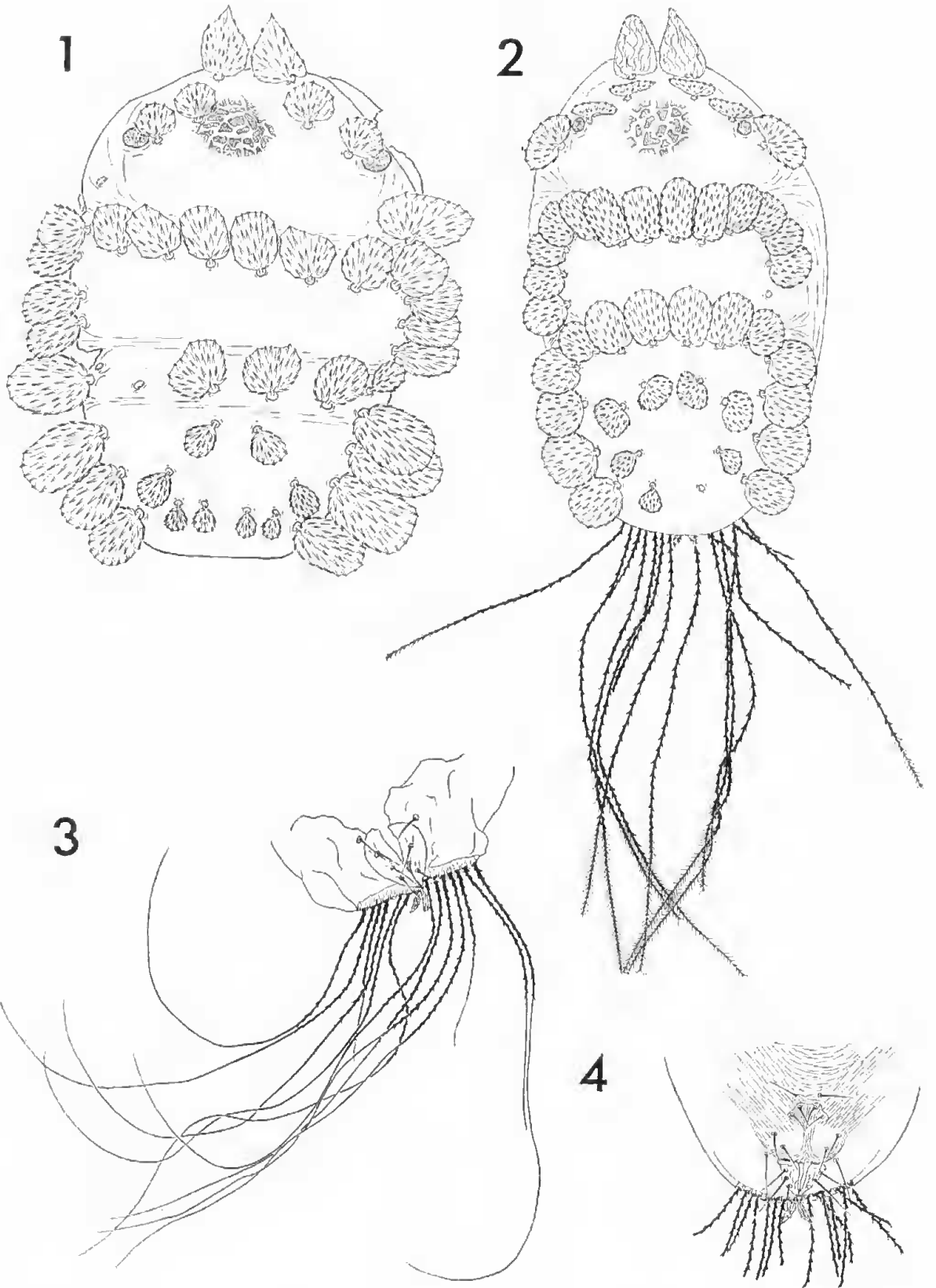
REDESCRIPTION OF TUCKERELLA SPECHTAE WOMERSLEY

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Womersley (1957) described a new species of *Tuckerella* from South Australia, for which only one specimen was available. The number of caudal flagellate setae (seven) and the relative sizes of the dorsal hysterosomal setae formed the basis of the new species. Miller (1964) examined the type specimen and found it to be male rather than female as described by Womersley (1957). A species (*coleogynis*) endemic to North America was described by Jorgensen (1967) and it too had seven caudal flagellate setae and the dorsal hysterosomal setae were similar to those described for *spechtae*.

An examination of the type specimen revealed some errors made in the original description and some of the most diagnostic characters had not been adequately considered. Also the specimen was rather badly mashed and broken in the process of mounting, and the cover glass had been cracked, thus, remounting is not possible. Because of the inadequate description and the possibility of the specimen drying out and becoming useless, a re-description seemed necessary. It also seemed advisable to describe the female even though it is without adequate collection data. I am grateful to Mr. D. C. Lee, South Australian Museum, for the loan of the type specimen and the female of *spechtae*.

Male (Figs. 1 and 3)—The type specimen is male rather than female. Measurements are not especially useful because of the mashed condition of the specimen. Colour in life red. Body semi-oval; divided with sutures between propodosoma, metapodosoma, and opisthosoma; weak suture immediately posterior of the anterior transverse row of dorsal palmate opisthosomal setae; integument reticulate. One pair of eyes; if second pair is present it is obscured in the mounting. Four pairs of palmate propodosomal setae, the fourth (postero-lateral) being largest and flared out posteriorly. Four pairs of palmate dorsal metapodosomal setae, and three pairs of laterals; all are subequal in size. Seven pairs of palmate dorsal opisthosomal setae; three pairs on anterior margin (the lateral pair being much smaller than the two interior pairs); and four pairs arranged posteriorly. Posterior four dorsal opisthosomal setae arranged in transverse row and smaller than all other dorsal setae. Four pairs of lateral opisthosomal setae, with posterior pair being slightly smaller than the other three. Seven pairs of flagellate caudal setae, ciliated on proximal end only; one pair of small medio-caudal, foliaceous setae; all caudal setae arising from distinct tubercles; third caudal setae from the outside less than one-half the length of all others. Palpus with a well developed thumb and



claw; thumb with five setae about equal length. Legs short and stout with pulvillus and two well developed claws; tenant hairs originating from lateral margin of claws and pulvillus; tarsus I-IV each with one sensory rod, rod on tarsus I slightly narrower and longer than others. Setae on dorsal surface of legs palmate, with four simple setae on tarsus I and II. Four pairs of simple setae in genito-anal region; although the fifth (most anterior) is probably present and simply lost in the mounting.

Female (Figs. 2 and 4)—Body semi-oval, divided with suture, between propodosoma, metapodosoma, and opisthosoma; integument reticulate. One pair of eyes. Number of dorsal palmate setae same as male; posterior two pairs of dorsal opisthosomal setae not in transverse row as in male, second and third dorsal palmate setae on propodosoma flattened and flared out rather than rounded as in the male. Caudal flagellate setae weakly plumose on distal end; one pair of small medio-caudal foliaceous setae; third caudal setae from outside short and not plumose on distal end. Palpus similar to male. Legs similar to male except tarsus I has two sensory rods, the distal almost twice as long as the proximal; tarsus II-IV each with one sensory rod subequal in length to the proximal on tarsus I. Two long and three short simple setae on tarsus I. Nine pairs of simple setae in genito-anal region.

The type data are precisely the same as reported by Womersley (1957), except the holotype is male rather than female. The female has no data, but was considered to be *spechtiae* because of the length of the third flagellate caudal setae. This character separates *spechtiae* from all other species of *Tuckerella*. The holotype (N196839) and the single female specimen (N196840) are at the South Australian Museum.

REFERENCES

- Jorgensen, C. D., 1967: A new species of *Tuckerella* (Acarina: Tuckerellidae) from Nevada. *Entomol. News*, 78: 141-146.
- Miller, L. W., 1964: A new species of *Tuckerella* (Acarina, Tetranychoida, Tuckerellidae) from Tasmania. *Papers and Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania*, 98: 79-84.
- Womersley, H., 1957: A new species of *Tuckerella* (Acarina, Tetranychoida, Tuckerellidae) from South Australia. *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia*, 80: 73-75.

Figs. 1-4. *Tuckerella spechtiae* Womersley. 1 and 3, male: 1, dorsal surface of idiosoma; 3, genito-anal region. 2 and 4, female: 2, dorsal surface of idiosoma; 4, genito-anal region.